

[Interview with Vito Cacciola #33]

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. Interview with Vita Cacciola.

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by

Merton R. Lovett.

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“As well as remembered.”

Interview with Vito Cacciola

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by Merton R. Lovett

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(from memory)

“I thinka fear is an enemy, Mr. Lovett. It maka de doctor's job more hard. If de patient is afraid, he resista de cure.

“Fear, I think he is lika de the dangerous dog. If you walka in de the vicinity of such a dog, he begina begin to bark with angry voice. He is trya try to frighten you.

“If you walka walk faster — if you showa show hurry, he barka bark with more fierceness. He is encouraged.

“Then, if you runna, what does he do? He saya to himself that you have fear. He geta bold. He runa after you and taka big bite from de leg.

“But, if, when de dog bark, you looka at him, what does he do? If you giva de kick, if you cracka him in ribs with stone, then de dog he is banish-ed.

“Yes, some peoples runa from their fears. Then de fears defeata them.

“Me, I [giva?] each fear de close mutiny — no? Scrutiny, that is it, — examination. Then I usa my reason. Perhaps I pray. I make my plan to defeata it. De fear vanisha soon.

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“Yes, some of de Italians hava many fears. It is made possible by de superstition and de ignorance. They does not faca de worry. They runa away from it.

“What is that Christian Science?

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"You say de Christian Scientist does not usa de doctor? How does he cura de sickness?

"De prayers is mucha powerful. De Lord is great. Does He always maka them well? Ifa so why does Christian Scientist geta death?

"You do not know. Does you have acquaintance with them?

"Only with your sister-by-de-law? What does she saya?

"By gracious, when I fella sick I cannot maka belief I is well. When I hava de pain, I hava pain. Why should I calla it de error?

"So you take your sister-by-de-law to de dentist. Did de tooth maka pain when he pulla it?

"She saya not? She did nota scream? Perhaps she was maka unconscious by de gas? Perhaps she gets shot with de novacaine?

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"No? By jingo, perhaps she foola you all de time. Perhaps she has mucha courage and de strong will.

"Who's that practitioner?

"So he maka prayer for her and she no feela de pain. When I geta my tooth fix-ed it hurta most awful. Would you believe me, it pained so much I geta wet with sweat. And believe you me; I made many prayers also.

"You is right. You and I cannot became Christian Science. We hava no faith. Perhaps we hasa too much intelligence, also, Mr. Lovett."

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"No, you does not preventa me from work. Today I taka it easy.

"Why? I ama celebrate. Yesterday I paya all de bills. I paya de rent, de electricity, de bills for leather, everything. This morning I puta my sheet music in order. Let me showa you.

"Oh, this pile of stockings? They must be mend-ed.

"Hah, hah, I menda them easy and so good as de woman.

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"I hava de skill to sew because I am de cobbler. De cobbler stitcha de shoes.

"My mother she teacha me how. She was smarta woman. I is so skill-ed now in de house, because she traina me early.

"So you thinka de woman what getta me for husband would be lucky? By jingo, she would be unlucky. She would hava much difficulty to suita me.

"Looka in this drawer. Is it not neat? See, here is de handkerchiefs. There is de shirts and de collar. Could de womans derange them with more skill? I keepa them systematized. I never have to hunta. I never geta excit-ed because I loss de tie. I never has a de reason to swear.

"Does your wife keepa your clothes so neat, Mr. Lovett?

"No, I beta she does not."

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"Gigli? Who isa Gigli you aska about.

"Maybe? Perhaps he is a greata singer. I never heara of him.

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"He finda fault with this country. Why?

"He says Americans are de misers, de robbers. de barbarians? It is de deparitionable insult. If he maka so much money in this country he should feela gratitude. I no lika him.

"Not many Italians is lika Gigli. Most of them holda love and respect for this country.

"Not many wants to leava here. Me, I wanta to stay in Beverly. Of course, I might maka short visit to Italy, but this is de country I inhabita.

"I do not know many Italians who senda their money back to place of birth. Of course, they often senda a little to helpa their families. What is right thing to do. Sometimes I maila to my mother five dollars. It is de joy of my life and de duty."

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